

codex alimentarius commission



FOOD AND AGRICULTURE
ORGANIZATION
OF THE UNITED NATIONS

WORLD
HEALTH
ORGANIZATION



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TO: Codex Contact Points
Interested International Organizations

FROM: Secretary, Codex Alimentarius Commission
Joint FAO/WHO Food Standards Programme, FAO, 00100 Rome, Italy

SUBJECT: REVISION OF THE DEFINITION OF FOOD

DEADLINE: 5 March 2005

COMMENTS:	To:	Copy to:
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The 20th Session of the Committee on General Principles, while considering the revision of the Code of Ethics for International Trade in Food, agreed to initiate new work on the revision of the current definition of food, as contained in the Procedural Manual (ALINORM 04/27/33A, paras. 79-84). The 27th Session of the Commission approved this proposal as new work (ALINORM 04/27/41, para. 88 and Appendix VI).

The current definition of food is the following:

***Food** means any substance, whether processed, semi-processed or raw, which is intended for human consumption, and includes drink, chewing gum and any substance which has been used in the manufacture, preparation or treatment of “food” but does not include cosmetics or tobacco or substances used only as drugs.*

The definition is therefore circulated for comments, proposals for amendments, and consideration by the 22nd Session of the Committee on General Principles, Paris, France, 11-15 April 2005.

Governments and international organizations wishing to submit comments should do so in writing, preferably by email, to the above addresses **before 5 March 2005**.